



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Atlantic City Naval Air Station, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey

FACT SHEET

January 2007

DESCRIPTION:

In 1942, Atlantic City NAS, located in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, Congressional District NJ-2, was constructed on 2,444 acres of leased private land. The mission of the air station was to train various air groups consisting of fighter, bomber, and torpedo squadrons and their crews for combat. In August 1943, Atlantic City NAS changed to only fighter training consisting of high and low altitude gunnery tactics; field carrier landings; arrested landings; catapult launchings; dive, glide, and live bombing; formation tactics; rocket work; fighter direction; night operations; and a complementary ground school.

The Atlantic City NAS was transferred from the Navy to the Airways Modernization Board (AMB) in June 1958. In November 1958, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took over operations of the AMB. The FAA expanded the former Naval land parcel to approximately 5,000 acres with a primary mission of responding and contributing to FAA research and development programs; testing and evaluating aviation concepts, procedures, and equipment; and assisting other departments of the agency with research, development, and implementation. The current FAA parcel, known as the William J. Hughes Technical Center, accommodates air traffic, airway facilities, systems research and development, flight inspection personnel of the FAA, an office of the National Weather Service, the 177th Fighter-Interceptor Group of the New Jersey Air National Guard (NJANG), and serves as the Atlantic City International Airport. In addition, the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) leases portions of the facility from the FAA.

AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The former Atlantic City NAS will be investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration - Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program. That program was authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986.

On August 30, 1990, the FAA Technical Center (portions of which were the former Atlantic City NAS) was placed on the Superfund National Priorities list. Since then, the FAA initiated environmental investigations at the site. Based on the findings of these studies, an additional FUDS project was approved in February 2006, mainly to address the issue of mercury found in sediments in watersheds that feed the Atlantic City reservoir. Further work addressing this area will be undertaken by the Corps, subject to the availability of funds. Previously, a FUDS project was approved to evaluate ordnance issues at the site.

STATUS:.....

The Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) addresses ordnance concerns at FUDS. An MMRP site inspection will be conducted at this FUDS by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. An Archive Search Report (ASR) was completed in December 1996, which evaluated the site for the potential presence of residual ordnance materiel, as well as an ASR Supplement on November 26, 2004.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will initiate an MMRP site inspection this year, in accordance with the protocol of the Military Munitions Response Program. The purpose of the site investigation will be to assess whether the site warrants any further response action, related to munitions and explosives of concern and/or munitions constituents. Records indicate that chemical agent identification sets (CAIS) were used while training military personnel at the Atlantic City NAS. Training in the use of gas masks and decontamination equipment was also documented. The ASR concluded that based on historical documents, interviews with individuals familiar with the site, and the ASR site inspection, CWM does not remain at the former Atlantic City NAS.

In the Summer of 2005, during a cultural resource investigation conducted by FAA, fragments of Navy dinnerware and a piece of a broken glass tube that has dimensions consistent with a CAIS component was discovered at Area W, a 1.5 acre parcel off English Creek Road. Area W is outside the leasehold of the former Atlantic City NAS and is also outside the fence line of the current FAA Technical Center. Investigative activities planned for Area W include geoprobe for groundwater sampling, area reconnaissance to locate evidence of military items on the ground surface and subsurface anomalies, limited trenching and some single anomaly excavation. Two other areas have been identified at the former Atlantic City NAS as being associated with chemical warfare: the Chemical Warfare Storage Hut (Bldg 32), now owned by FAA and leased to the NJANG, and the Chemical Magazine (Bldg 72) on property now owned by SJTA. Details for these two buildings are not available; however, the Chemical Warfare Storage Hut was likely used to store training chemical warfare training materials and the Chemical Magazine would have been used to store incendiary and smoke munitions. Both structures have been removed and no CWM has been found in association with them. Also, no evidence of CAIS exists at Naval Burial Pits 1 & 2. The current site inspection effort will address Bldg. 32, Bldg. 72, Naval Burial Pits 1 & 2, a Skeet Range, and the Area "U" watershed, which flows into the Atlantic City Reservoir. Site inspection fieldwork was completed in October 2006; a final report will be issued in January 2007.

PROJECT COST:.....

The current site-wide MMRP site inspection is expected to cost \$762,000.

Further evaluation of mercury in sediments at Area U will be conducted subject to the availability of funds.

CONTACT:

Gregory J. Goepfert, Project Manager, (917) 790-8235

